



Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights No. 5 NEWSLETTER



Annual Issue

Spring 2005

c/o Neighborhood Commission Office • 530 South King Street, Room 400 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Editor: Barbara Miller

Notes from the Board Chair

by Karen Ah Mai (808) 732-7321

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Aloha Everyone,

The Neighborhood Board is the place where governmental issues are brought into the communities and tl where residents can express their concerns without having to go downtown.

Among the issues presented at the Neighborhood Board No. 5 regular meetings last year were: a) the effect of **Safeway** in Kapahulu on traffic and nearby residents; b) the **Natatorium**; c) long-standing roadwork on St. Louis Heights; d) the impact of the **1-in-100 year storm** on Kapahulu and the Ala Wai Canal; e) the **International Music Festival** in Diamond Head crater; f) the impact of the **Triathlon** on neighbors; and g) the dangerous left turns at the Date-Mooheau intersection into Kapahulu.

NB No. 5 reorganized to streamline its meetings. Each of the communities (SD 1- St. Louis Heights, SD 2 - Kapahulu, and SD 3 - Diamond Head) now has a Vice Chair to coordinate their important concerns. Time is fairly distributed among the speakers and the communities and the meetings are being completed in 2 hours. The Board's agenda and minutes are on the Internet and we invite you to attend when issues concern you – this is your monthly community forum and the Board would appreciate hearing from you.

Karen Ah Mai, Chair

Subdistrict 1. A View of the Future: Doing More with Less \$\$\$

by Rt. Rev. Wayne Gau, SD1 Vice Chair (808) 737- 5654

Toward the middle of the 2003-2005 term, the operating account of NB 5 was dipping dangerously low. By May 2004, the operating account had descended into a \$45.51 deficit. A financial review was voted by the board to determine what was happening.

The report demonstrated that 44% of the operating account had been spent on mailing regular agenda and meeting minutes as required by the Hawaii Sunshine Law. Committee meetings postage costs \$50.21 for the one page agenda / notices. The postage for two July 2003 Executive Committee meetings was \$101.61. Board action cannot be taken through committee. The committee system was an expensive way for the board to study specific issues affecting the subdistricts.

Fortunately, the Board reinstated the three Vice Chairs system used in the 1980's. As before, the Vice Chairs collect information from the Subdistrict community and report concerns at the regular monthly meetings. Thus, all Board members can discuss the issues rather than delaying and scheduling a committee meeting.

By May 2005, the operating account showed a large **surplus**. The best reasons for the three Vice Chairs are savings in time and it **costs nothing**.

Subdistrict 1 – St. Louis Heights. Karen Ah Mai (1997), Jim Cone (2001– 04), Wayne Gau (1987), Faye Kennedy (2003 – 05), Barbara Miller (1999), Bert Narita (2004).

Subdistrict 2. KAPAHULU TRAFFIC and other CONCERNS

by Bertha Nahoopii, SD 2 Vice Chair (808) 734-579



The Kapahulu District is a combination of retail and other commercial businesses and residents. One of its main distinctive features is that Kapahulu is a major traffic artery into and out of the Waikiki District.

Board members are aware that we have to deal with the problems that are due to the heavy traffic. One of the most troublesome spots is the intersection of Kapahulu, Date and Mooheau streets. As a result of the NB No. 5 Board's efforts, a new left turn signal will be installed.

To obtain up-to-date information on the *Safeway supermarket complex* planned for the former *Love's Bakery* property, phone the publicity agent: **Cindy McMillan (808) 543-3581**.

Ken Chang (808) 734-4387 is interested in discussing suggestions for the vacant state property on Kapahulu Avenue. Parking structure? Senior Center? Other ideas?

Subdistrict 2 – Kapahulu. Ken Chang (1981), Russell Fukuhara (2003), Bertha Nahoopii (1977), Art Ross (1987– 05), Patrick Skonecki - 2005.

Subdistrict 3. Diamond Head News

by Roxie Berlin, SD3. (808) 923-3384



Our Diamond Head Subdistrict includes Kapiolani Park and the Paki Hale building. We have consistently urged the city to repair the leaking roof. This year we expect to be successful.

The restoration of the *Natatorium* is another ongoing concern. Regardless of our diverse opinions on its merits, it seems obvious that the city cannot now afford to spend millions of dollars on this project.

The *2004 Triathlon* event distressed many residents because they were unable to drive from their homes for many hours. Our Board was determined to monitor such park events in the future. Happily, the *2005 Triathlon* was handled much better.

Subdistrict 3 – Diamond Head. Roxie Berlin (2001), Steve Knauer (1999 – 05), Michelle Matson (1991), Christen Mitchell (1997-05), Linda Wong (1999).

Elected Officials Forum

Would you like to 'talk story' (up to 5 minutes time limits) with your favorite politician? At our monthly regular meetings, our elected officials provide a verbal report and some distribute newsletters. During the 'Question & Answers' period, Board and audience members have an opportunity to exchange information and opinions. Our elected officials are:



Senator Les Ihara, Jr.
Representative Calvin Say
Representative Scott Nishimoto
Councilperson Charles Djou
Councilperson Ann Kobayashi
Representative of the Governor – J.P. Schmidt
Representative of the Mayor – Wailea Constneau

Reflections of the former Board Chair

by Arthur E. Ross, Esq., SD2



After 20 years on NB No. 5, I have decided to retire, and thank the people of St. Louis Heights, Kapahulu, and Diamond Head communities for the opportunity to serve.

To keep our quality of life from further erosion, this Board must continue to monitor public safety issues, urban planning, and prevent over development that would impinge on our greenbelt environment.

We cannot depend on city and state government alone to provide the solutions to all these problems. The Neighborhood Boards must provide the leadership in solving these matters. I urge our NB No. 5 to continue to spearhead the necessary improvements before the City Council, legislative and public agencies.

Mailing List Update

by Barbara Miller, Recording Secretary SD1. (808) 735-5868

In an effort to save taxpayer money, the Neighborhood Commission Office will be conducting an annual purge of our mailing lists. We encourage you to sign up for our free e-mail service, which will automatically e-mail agendas and/or minutes to your account for the Boards of your choosing.

To sign up for this free service, please visit our website at <http://www.Honolulu.gov/nco>

If you would like to receive the agenda and/or minutes in the regular mail, you must contact the Neighborhood Commission Office: **1) Phone 523-4088**

2) E-mail Bryan Mick at bmick@honolulu.gov

Effective June 1, 2005, only those who respond to this notice will remain on the mailing list

Neighborhood Board No. 5 Survey

by Faye Kennedy, SD 1

The following questionnaire relates to issues likely to have an impact on you and others in our community. By responding, you can influence your elected officials who participate in Neighborhood Board meetings. Please complete the survey and a) Bring to the next Neighborhood Board meeting; b) Mail to Neighborhood Board No. 5, C/O Neighborhood Commission, 530 South King Street, Room 400, Honolulu, HI 96813; c) Fax to (808) 527- 5760 or d) e-mail to nco@honolulu.gov.

- 1) Do you support the use of public funds for "Sunset on the Beach?"
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 2) Do you favor restoring traffic lanes or removing trees in Waikiki now considered impractical or hazardous?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 3) Do you support the building of a *Safeway* in Kapahulu on the site of the former *Love's Bakery* property?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 4) Do you support a ban on using cell phones, without a hands - free device while driving (except for emergencies)?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 5) Do you approve of Act 50, permitting a one-year ban on designated individuals (including the homeless) from beaches, public buildings and other specified public areas?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 6) Do you favor more funds for treatment of first time, non-violent offenders addicted to "ice" or other illegal drugs?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 7) Do you favor "Death with Dignity" legislation allowing the terminally ill to obtain a lethal dose of medication from doctors to end their lives?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 8) Do you support legislation authorizing an increase in the excise tax to support mass transit?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 9) Do you support the proposed Superferry project?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 10) Do you support a "bottle law" requiring supermarkets and other retailers to process recyclables?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 11) Do you believe a gas cap law would lower the price of gas at the pump?
a. Yes ____ b. No ____ c. No opinion ____
- 12) How would you improve your Neighborhood Board?

NB District _____ Name (optional) _____



Neighborhood Board No. 5 - June 2003 to May 2005

Subdistrict 1 – St. Louis Heights, Subdistrict 2 – Kapahulu, Subdistrict 3 – Diamond Head

(Seated – left to right) Art Ross, Bertha Nahoopii (Vice Chair SD 2),

Wayne Gau (Vice Chair SD 1), Karen Ah Mai (Chair), Russell Fukahara

(Standing – left to right) Michelle Matson, Patrick Skonecki (Treasurer), Linda Wong,

Roxie Berlin, Barbara Miller (Secretary), Bert Narita, Faye Kennedy (Not present)

SD1 Jim Cone, Steve Knauer (SD3 Vice Chair), SD2 Ken Chang & SD3 Christen Mitchell (past Chairs)



DIAMOND HEAD/KAPAHULU/ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 5

**C/O NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
CITY HALL, 530 SOUTH KING STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813**

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